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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/359,181	07/22/1999	GERARD GRASSY	1028-1	2476
110	7590	08/10/2004	EXAMINER	
DANN, DORFMAN, HERRELL & SKILLMAN saet 1601 MARKET STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2307			CLOW, LORI A	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	1631

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/359,181	GRASSY ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Lori A. Clow, Ph.D.	1631	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 May 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,4,5,8-10,18-20 and 73 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3,6,7,11-17,21-68 and 70-72 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,4,5,8-10,18-20 and 73 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is further responsive to the amendment dated 6 May 2004. The Examiner apologizes for the Notice of Non-Compliance erroneously sent 16 July 2004. The Notice of Non-Compliance is hereby rescinded.

Applicants' arguments, filed 6 May 2004, have been fully considered. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections and/or objections are either reiterated or newly applied. They constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8-10, 18-20, and 73 are currently pending. Applicant is reminded to cancel claims drawn to non-elected subject matter.

The outstanding rejections under 35 USC 112, first paragraph pertaining to written description have been withdrawn in view of Applicant's response.

The outstanding rejections under 35 USC 112, first paragraph pertaining to enablement have been withdrawn in view of Applicant's response.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8-10, 18-20, and 73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 18 recite “a computer-aided method for the provision, identification, and description of molecules”. However, there are no steps in the claim which identify or describe a molecule. The steps are drawn to simply selecting candidate molecules and filtering them with a dynamic filter. Clarification is requested.

Claims 1 and 18, step 2 recite “a step of building a combinatorial library” followed by a step 3 of “a step of selecting candidate molecules”. The relationship of these two steps is unclear. Are the candidate molecules selected from the combinatorial library or are they selected from some other source? Clarification is requested.

Claims 1 and 18 recite “a filtering step”. It is unclear whether the filter is filtering for a particular activity or against a particular activity. Clarification is requested.

Claims 1 and 18 recite a first filtering step using a static filter and a second filtering step using a dynamic filter. Are these steps performed in succession or separately? Clarification is requested.

Claim 4 recites a method “further comprising screening the candidate molecules”. It is unclear when this step is performed. Can it be performed at any stage in the method of claim 1? Clarification is requested.

Claim 4 recites “screening the candidate molecules on the basis of the degree of enrichment”. It is unclear what is intended by “on the basis of enrichment”. What are the parameters associated with “enrichment”? To what degree is a molecule enriched? Clarification is requested.

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Claims 5 and 8 recites a further step of "deriving one or more criteria". What is the relationship of this step to the steps recited in claim 1? Furthermore, with what activity are the descriptor values associated? Clarification is requested.

No claims are allowed.

Inquiries

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technical Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technical Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (See 37 CFR § 1.6(d)). The CM1 Fax Center number is either (703) 308-4242, or (703) 308-4028.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lori A. Clow, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-0715. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 10 am to 6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael P. Woodward, Ph.D., can be reached on (571) 272-0722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to (571) 272-0547.

Patent applicants with problems or questions regarding electronic images that can be viewed in the Patent Application Information Retrieval system (PAIR) can now contact the USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center (Patent EBC) for assistance. Representatives are available to answer your questions daily from 6 am to midnight (EST). The toll free number is (866) 217-9197. When calling please have your application serial or patent number, the type of document you are having an image problem with, the number of pages and the specific nature of the problem. The Patent Electronic Business Center will notify applicants of the resolution of the problem within 5-7 business days. Applicants can also check PAIR to confirm that the problem has been corrected. The USPTO's Patent Electronic Business Center is a complete service center supporting all patent business on the Internet. The USPTO's PAIR system provides Internet-based access to patent application status and history information. It also enables applicants to view the scanned images of their own application file folder(s) as well as general patent information available to the public.

Lori A. Clow
August 5, 2004
1631

MARJORIE MORAN
PATENT EXAMINER
Lori A. Moran
8/5/04